

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing
“PPACA Implementation Failures: What’s Next?”
December 11, 2013

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chair will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Throughout this year, various Administration officials, including you, Secretary Sebelius, have sat in this room and repeatedly told the American people that implementation of the Affordable Care Act was on schedule.

As we have seen from the disastrous rollout of healthcare.gov, and documents showing that the October 1 deadline could not be met, that was false.

In fact, every major promise the Administration made about the ACA – from being able to keep your health plan if you like it, to being able to keep your doctor if you want to, to the very premise of health reform in the first place, that the ACA would make health coverage more affordable – has proven to be wrong.

My constituents have repeatedly expressed to me that they feel they were lied to by the Administration about the real effects of this law.

In addition, we are also learning that millions may be improperly enrolled in Medicaid as a result of the disastrous rollout – resulting in Washington yet again squandering the hard earned dollars sent to the federal government by our constituents.

Words start to lose their meaning when they are delivered by individuals who have either misled this Committee or were woefully ignorant of the disastrous consequences that have unfolded since enactment of the ACA.

The last time you were here, Madam Secretary, you said “I know that it isn’t fair to ask the American people to take our word for it.”

My constituents do not trust the Administration when it comes to the ACA, and it is they who are suffering because of these broken promises.